

# Robbers storm bank, kill soldier

George Onah

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A soldier and a bricklayer were killed and several others wounded when a gang of 16 armed robbers stormed the Omoku branches of UBA and ECO banks in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni Council, Rivers State, at about 8.30 a.m. Thursday.

The soldier was killed at Krigene Community when the robbers were fleeing and heading towards the river, through which they allegedly came, while the bricklayer was shot dead at the bank premises. He was said to be carrying out some repairs of the UBA bank building.

Police PRO Ireju Barasua, (a DSP), told *Vanguard* on phone that "we have heard of the robbery but details are not available now".

Witnesses said the thieves took their time in ransacking the banks as they spent about one hour in each of the

banks. Police security at the banks had not reported at their duty post when the rogues arrived.

However, some youths of the area put up spirited efforts to thwart the robbers escape by puncturing the tyres of the robbers van. But another report said the rogues disabled the Kombi bus to prevent a chase, after snatching a get-away car.

Relatedly, four people were shot dead at Etche council, Thursday, when some men suspected to be pipeline vandals arrived at the community and wanted to commence the stealing of crude oil.

They were, however, confronted by youths of the community, following which a heated argument led to the shooting, which fell the men. The invaders later made good their escape before police arrived there.